

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-08 IO-14 SS-20 NSC-10

DRC-01 /150 W

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R 241556Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6295

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5182

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, CI

SUBJECT: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR CHILE'S COPPER MINING

1. IN OCT 20 CONVERSATION OF EMBOFF WITH RICARDO CLARO, LATTER MENTIONED DISCUSSIONS WITH TWO POSSIBLE SOURCES OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO CHILEAN COPPER WHILE HE WAS IN THE US. ROBERT KOENIG, FORMER HEAD OF CERRO CORPORATION IN CHILE, TOLD CLARO HE WAS INTERESTED IN PUTTING TOGETHER TEAM OF ABOUT TWENTY TOP-FLIGHT PEOPLE TO ADVISE ON COPPER PRODUCTION AND MARKETING. KOENIG MENTIONED AS POSSIBLE PARTICIPANTS SIR RONALD PRAIN (CONNECTED WITH ROAN TRUST), BOB HALDEMAN (FORMER HEAD KENNECOTT IN CHILE) AND JORGE SNYDER (CHILEAN EXPATRIATE MINING TECHNICIAN.) IT WAS KOENIG'S IDEA THAT GROUP COULD USE NORANDA (CANADIAN MINING COMPANY) OR SOME OTHER THIRD COUNTRY FIRM AS A FRONT TO KEEP IT AT ARMS LENGTH FROM US INVOLVEMENT. HE THOUGHT IDB FINANCING MIGHT BE POSSIBLE.

2. CLARO SAYS HE ALSO MET WITH MR. DONAHUE, PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN METAL CLIMAX. CLARO DESCRIBED DONAHUE AS BEING VERY INTERESTED IN HIS FIRM TAKING AN ADVISORY ROLE IN MARKETING AND PRODUCTION AS WELL AS DEVELOPMENT OF NEW MINING PROPERTY.

3. AT PRESENT, CLARO IS INCLINED TO RECOMMEND TO GOC THAT
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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BE DIVIDED BETWEEN AT LEAST TWO FIRMS.

ONE MIGHT COVER EL TENIENTE AND CERRO WHILE OTHER CONCENTRATES
ON FORMER ANACONDA PROPERTIES IN NORTH. HE THINKS SUCH AN
ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE POLITICALLY MORE ACCEPTABLE AND ESTABLISH
A DEGREE OF COMPETITION BETWEEN THE TWO.
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